## REMARKS

This is a Response to a Final Office Action mailed November 3, 2004, in which a three (3) month Shortened Statutory Period for Response has been set, due to expire February 3, 2005. Fifty-six (56) claims, including sixteen (16) independent claims, were paid for in the application. Claims 8, 38-40, and 50-56 have been canceled. Claims 1, 7, 9-12, 14-16, 19, 25, 29, 32, 46, and 49 have been amended. No new claims have been added and no new matter has been added to the application. No fee for additional claims is due by way of this Amendment. The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090. Claims 1-7, 9-37, 41-49, and 57 are pending.

### Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 15, 19, and 32 because of informalities. Applicants have amended claims 15, 19, and 32 to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner.

### Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

The Examiner rejected claims 19-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner asserts that claim 19 lacks antecedent basis for the recited limitation of "the playing cards" and claims 20-24 stand rejected because they depend on a rejected base claim. Applicants have amended claim 19 to overcome the Section 112 rejection.

### Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claim 27, and for providing a statement of reasons for why the subject matter of claim 27 is allowable.

The Examiner had maintained the rejection of claims 1-7, 9-26, 28-37, 41-49, and 57 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Lamle (U.S. Patent No. 5,199,710). Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's contention that Lamle discloses or teaches "that

the card values generated are a sequence of cards generated in consecutive order with the consecutive order of the random number card values."

Applicants note that one distinguishing aspect between the subject matter of Lamle and Applicants' claims is the timing between generating a random number sequence and printing a first card in that sequence. Lamle teaches generating a random number; matching the random number to a specific card value; printing the card; and then repeating the process. Lamle teaches optionally storing the successively generated random numbers in a list to prevent reusing a number. However, Lamle teaches that the storage process requires that when a random number is added to the list, the corresponding card value is printed onto card stock *before* a new random number is ever generated. In contrast to Lamle, Applicants' claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "wherein the pseudo-random playing card sequence is generated *before* a first card in the sequence is printed." (Emphasis added.) Applicants submit that this limitation, as recited or according to slight variations appearing in other independent claims, distinguishes Applicants' claims over the teachings of Lamle (note: claim 27 is independent, but has already been allowed).

Next, Applicants would like to clarify the method taught by Lamle for supplying playing cards to a playing area versus the methods claimed by Applicants. To facilitate the analysis, Applicants summarize Lamle's method via pseudo-code, immediately below.

**Lamle's disclosed method:**

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01    assign each unique card value in a series of card values to a unique
number;
02    if a deck of infinite length is represented, then GOTO step 10;
03    if a deck of finite length is represented, then
04    generate one random number;
05          check if the one random number matches an evolving list of
            previously generated random numbers;
06                if the one random number matches one of the previously
                  generated random numbers, GOTO step 04,
```

07 if the one random number does not match any one of the previously generated random numbers, then store the one random number as the next number on the list of previously generated random numbers;

08 print a card with a card value corresponding to the one random number;

09 return to step 04;

10 generate one random number;

11 print a card with a card value corresponding to the one random number;

12 repeat steps 10 and 11 until a desired number of cards are printed from the deck of infinite length.

Applicants next summarize one of Applicants' disclosed embodiments in pseudo-code, immediately below.

**Applicants' method:**

01 generate a random sequence of card values before a first card in the sequence is printed;

02 print a set of playing cards having card values that match at least a portion of the generated random sequence; and;

03 if more playing cards are desired, return to step 01.

Lamle teaches that previously generated random numbers are placed on a list and newly generated random numbers are continuously and successively compared against the list. Lamle's process must keep re-generating random numbers until a random number is produced that is not found on the list. Thus, one disadvantage of Lamle is that processing a large, finite number of cards will require much more time and computing power when contrasted to Applicants' process, which would hinder or prevent the use of such to provide playing cards in real time during a card game.

Applicants submit that the following recitations, *inter alia*, found in the respective independent claims, patentably distinguish each of the respective claims over Lamle.

Claim 1 recites: "the pseudo-random playing card sequence is generated before a first card in the sequence is printed."

Claim 7 recites: "printing markings ... following the computational generation of the entire first pseudo-random playing card sequence."

Claim 9 recites: "printing markings ... following the computational generation of the entire first pseudo-random playing card sequence."

Claim 12 recites: "wherein the printing occurs after computational generation of the entire first pseudo-random playing card sequence."

Claim 14 recites: "a processor programmed to generate a pseudo-random playing card sequence of at least three playing card values from a set of playing card values before a first card in the sequence is printed."

Claim 16 recites: "wherein the printing on a first one of the set of playing cards occurs after generating the entire pseudo-random playing card sequence."

Claim 19 recites: "wherein the printing on a first card of the number of playing cards occurs after generating the entire pseudo-random playing card sequence."

Claim 25 recites: "wherein the pseudo-random playing card sequence is generated before a first card in the sequence is printed."

Claim 27: This claim has already been allowed.

Claim 29 recites: "wherein the first pseudo-random playing card sequence is generated before a first card in the sequence is printed."

Claim 32 recites: "the pseudo-random sequence being defined before printing a first card marking corresponding to a first one of the playing card values in the pseudo-random sequence."

Claim 41 recites: "means for receiving and printing markings corresponding to the playing card values on playing cards according to the pseudo-random sequence after the sequence of the at least three playing card values has been produced."

Claim 46 recites: "wherein the pseudo-random sequence is generated before a first card in the sequence is printed."

Claim 49 recites: "wherein the pseudo-random playing card sequence is generated before a first card in the sequence is printed."

To summarize, Lamle teaches that a first card is printed before a second random number is ever generated. In addition, Lamle does not provide any teaching, suggestion, or motivation to generate a random playing card sequence before a first card in the sequence is printed. Hence, Applicants submit that all pending, independent claims provide distinct advantages over Lamle and are nonobvious in view of Lamle.

Conclusion

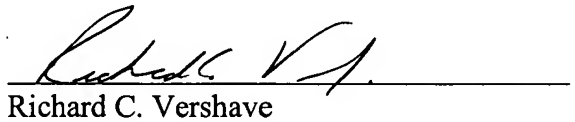
In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are allowable. Overall, the cited reference does not teach, suggest, or provide any motivation for the claimed features recited in independent claims 1, 7, 9, 12, 14, 16, 19, 25, 27, 29, 32, 41, 46, and 49, and thus, these claims are allowable. Because the remaining claims depend from allowable independent claims, Applicants submit that the dependent claims are likewise allowable.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider this application and timely allow all pending claims. In the alternative, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner promptly issue an Advisory Action with reasons specifying why the Examiner decided to maintain any or all of the claim rejections. Examiner Nguyen is encouraged to contact Mr. Vershave by telephone to discuss the above and any other distinctions between the claims and the applied references, if desired. If the Examiner finds the claims allowable except for some minor informality, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Mr. Vershave by telephone to expediently correct any informality.

All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

SEED Intellectual Property Law Group PLLC



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